

What is Claimed Is:

1. A retail system comprising:
 - at least one purchase ordering facility for providing representations of items offered for sale, and
 - at least one portable device movable by a customer for detecting indicia of said representations to select the items to be included in a purchase order.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the representation includes samples of the items.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein said portable device is configured to read the indicia of the samples.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein said portable device is configured to display total price of a purchase after reading the indicia of each sample.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein said portable device is configured to enable the customer to edit the purchase order.
6. The system of claim 1, further comprising a purchase ordering terminal for enabling a customer to order products available for sale in the retail system including the items that are not represented in the purchase ordering facility.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the purchase ordering terminal is configured to enable the customer to continue placing the product order after selecting the items using the portable device.
8. The system of claim 6, wherein the purchase ordering terminal is configured to read purchase order information from the portable device.

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10. The system of claim 6, wherein the purchase ordering terminal is configured to electronically simulate a store containing the products available in the retail system.

12. The system of claim 6, wherein the purchase ordering terminal is configured to electronically simulate an Internet site.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the output device is provided with indicia readable by said portable device.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the purchase order is automatically transferred from the portable readable device to a central station when the portable device reads the indicia of the output device.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the output representing the purchase order formed by the portable device is automatically produced when the portable device reads the indicia of the output device.

23. The retail system of claim 22, wherein the customer is enabled to combine purchase ordering using the portable device with the purchase ordering using the purchase ordering terminal.

24. The retail system of claim 23, wherein the purchase ordering terminal is configured for reading purchase order information from the portable device.

25. A retail system comprising a plurality of purchase ordering facilities for enabling customers to place purchase orders and a plurality of purchase check-out facilities for enabling the customers to receive ordered purchases, a customer being enabled to receive an ordered purchase at a purchase check-out facility remote with respect to a purchase ordering facility where the purchase was ordered.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the purchase ordering facilities contain samples of items offered for sale to enable the customer to select required items.

27. A retail system controlled by a control system and comprising:
at least one storage facility for storing goods available for sale in the retail system,

multiple purchase ordering facilities for enabling a customer to order a purchase, and

multiple purchase obtaining points, each purchase obtaining point enabling the customer to obtain the ordered purchase after a time period sufficient to deliver the ordered purchase from the storage facility to the purchase obtaining point.

28. The retail system of claim 27, wherein at least one of the purchase ordering facilities contain samples of a limited number of items offered for sale.

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29. The retail system of claim 28, wherein said at least one of the purchase ordering facilities contain at least one purchase ordering terminal for enabling the customer to order products available for sale in the retail system, including the items that are not represented by the samples.

a, 30. A method of selling goods comprising the steps of:
storing goods available for sale in a storage facility,
presenting samples of the goods at a purchase ordering facility to enable a customer to order a purchase, and

enabling the customer to obtain the ordered purchase at a purchase obtaining point after a time period sufficient to deliver the purchase from the storage facility to the purchase obtaining point.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the purchase ordering facility presents samples of a limited number of items offered for sale.

32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of providing a purchase ordering terminal in the purchase ordering facility for enabling the customer to order products available for sale, including the items that are not represented by the samples.

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